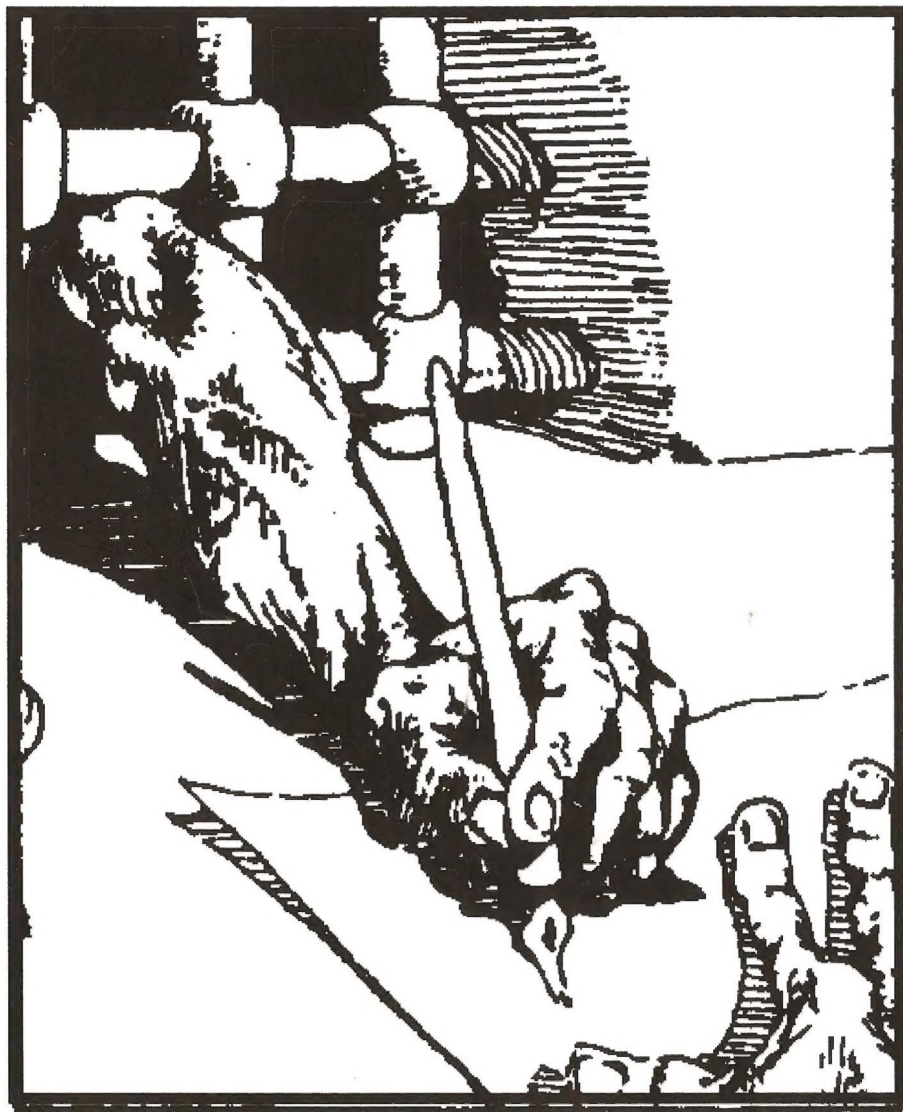


ANARCHIST THEFT ★



Anarchist Communist Federation

Aims and Principles

1. The Anarchist Communist Federation is an organisation of revolutionary class struggle anarchists. We aim for the abolition of all hierarchy, and work for the creation of a world-wide classless society: anarchist communism.
2. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of the working class by the ruling class. But inequality and exploitation are also expressed in terms of race, gender, sexuality, health, ability and age, and in these ways one section of the working class oppresses another. This divides us, causing a lack of class unity in struggle that benefits the ruling class. Oppressed groups are strengthened by autonomous action which challenges social and economic power relationships. To achieve our goal we must relinquish power over each other on a personal as well as a political level.
3. We believe that fighting racism and sexism is as important as other aspects of the class struggle. Anarchist communism cannot be achieved while sexism and racism still exist. In order to be effective in their struggle against their oppression both within society and within the working class, women and black people may at times need to organise independently. However, this should be as working class women and black people as cross-class movements hide real class differences and achieve little for them. Full emancipation cannot be achieved without the abolition of capitalism.
4. We are opposed to the ideology of national liberation movements which claims that there is some common interest between native bosses and the working class in face of foreign domination. We do support working class struggles against racism, genocide, ethnocide and political and economic colonialism. We oppose the creation of any new ruling class. We reject all forms of nationalism, as this only serves to redefine divisions in the international working class. The working class has no country and national boundaries must be eliminated. We seek to build an anarchist international to work with other libertarian revolutionaries throughout the world.
5. As well as exploiting and oppressing the majority of people, Capitalism threatens the world through war and the destruction of the environment.
6. It is not possible to abolish Capitalism without a revolution, which will arise

out of class conflict. The ruling class must be completely overthrown to achieve anarchist communism. Because the ruling class will not relinquish power without the use of armed force, this revolution will be a time of violence as well as liberation.

7. Unions by their very nature cannot become vehicles for the revolutionary transformation of society. They have to be accepted by capitalism in order to function and so cannot play a part in its overthrow. Trades unions divide the working class (between employed and unemployed, trade and craft, skilled and unskilled, etc). Even syndicalist unions are constrained by the fundamental nature of unionism. The union has to be able to control its membership in order to make deals with management. Their aim, through negotiation, is to achieve a fairer form of exploitation of the workforce. The interests of leaders and representatives will always be different from ours. The boss class is our enemy, and while we must fight for better conditions from it, we have to realise that reforms we may achieve today may be taken away tomorrow. Our ultimate aim must be the complete abolition of wage slavery. Working within the unions can never achieve this. However, we do not argue for people to leave unions until they are made irrelevant by the revolutionary event. The union is a common point of departure for many workers. Rank and file initiatives may strengthen us in the battle for anarchist-communism. What's important is that we organise ourselves collectively, arguing for workers to control struggles themselves.

8. Genuine liberation can only come about through the revolutionary self-activity of the working class on a mass scale. An anarchist communist society means not only co-operation between equals, but active involvement in the shaping and creating of that society during and after the revolution. In times of upheaval and struggle, people will need to create their own revolutionary organisations controlled by everyone in them. These autonomous organisations will be outside the control of political parties, and within them we will learn many important lessons of self-activity.

9. As anarchists we organise in all areas of life to try to advance the revolutionary process. We believe a strong anarchist organisation is necessary to help us to this end. Unlike other so-called socialists or communists we do not want power or control for our organisation. We recognise that the revolution can only be carried out directly by the working class. However, the revolution must be preceded by organisations able to convince people of the anarchist communist alternative and method. We participate in struggle as anarchist communists, and organise on a federative basis. We reject sectarianism and work for a united revolutionary anarchist movement.

Workers Solidarity Movement

Statement on IRA cease-fire

We welcome the IRA cease-fire. Over the last 25 years over 3,000 people have been killed and 40,000 injured. Thousands have been through or are in still prison. The primary blame for these deaths and all the associated suffering belongs with the British state. No cease-fire has as yet been declared by the British state. Likewise the loyalist paramilitaries have not yet declared a cease-fire, and have killed Catholics and bombed a Sinn Fein office since the IRA ceased their military campaign.. In these circumstances the IRA cease-fire alone will not bring peace, much less justice. As we said of the armed struggle in our position paper on the National question. "10. The current tactic of armed struggle as carried out by the republicans is incapable of achieving a solution as it is incapable of delivering a military victory and defeating the British army. In addition the British ruling class cares little for the deaths of individual soldiers in its army. 11. In addition we believe the armed struggle is also faulted as it relies on the actions of a few with the masses left in either a totally passive role, or one limited to providing intelligence and shelter to the few. However it has served to maintain the gains made in the late 60's and early 70's and to protect the nationalist community from some loyalist and state terrorism. " The gun was re-introduced in Northern Irish politics some 25 years ago by the British state and its forces. It is significant that the first death, the first dead soldier, the first dead policeman, the first dead child and the first bombing were all at the hands of British or loyalist forces. These forces have yet to lay down their arms. They took them up 25 years ago to smash a peaceful civil rights movement, demonstrating for equal rights between Catholics and Protestants. Reforms have been extracted from the British state since that time. Some aspects of discrimination, most notably around housing have been removed or had their legal basis undermined. Further concessions may have been won in return for the IRA cease-fire, but the legacy of that system of discrimination still remains in the fact that a Catholic is 2.4 times more likely to be unemployed than a Protestant. Some on the left will see the IRA cease-fire as a sell-out. We don't. The politics of nationalism were always going to lead to a compromise with imperial-

ism, it was only those with illusions in the republican's "left turn" that thought otherwise. It has been clear for a decade, even to the republicans, that the armed struggle was going nowhere. Britain could not be defeated militarily, and Sinn Fein could not expand on its vote either in the North or South. With the reaching of a compromise in El Salvador, South Africa and Palestine it became no longer a question of 'if but one of 'when' such a compromise would be reached here. As such the fact, if not the exact terms, of the current settlement with world capitalism are an integral part of nationalism and the logical conclusion of the republican strategy. Indeed for several years it seemed that the British government would, for its own selfish reasons, refuse to give an inch, being more interested in a propaganda 'victory' than in peace. However it would seem that the massive City of London bombs and the mortar attacks on Heathrow airport, coming on top of a prolonged military campaign, convinced a majority of the British government to bring the IRA into talks. In the 26 counties Albert Reynolds was eager to seize the mantle of the Taoiseach who brought peace to Ireland. On the day of the cease-fire we were treated to a nauseous broadcast by him telling us how he had made the country safe for the little children. With the Official Unionist Party begrudgingly welcoming of the cease-fire it would seem that within a short time there will be no significant faction opposing it, with the likely exception of Ian Paisley's extreme right wing Democratic Unionist Party [This is not to discount the possibility of the loyalist death squads murdering more Catholics first to show they have not gone "soft"] . It is far from clear that the British government will fulfil its part of whatever deal has been made. At a minimum these would seem to be early release for political prisoners, amending the 1920 Government of Ireland Act to allow unity if a majority in the 6 counties vote for it and allowing of Sinn Fein into direct discussions. Britain has destroyed the possibility of peace before by refusing to honour commitments. Nevertheless a majority of republicans are aware that the armed struggle cannot inflict a military defeat on Britain, and has become redundant. The "peace process" as it is called, will not deliver a united socialist Ireland, or significant improvements apart from those associated with 'de-militarisation'. In addition it represents a hardening of traditional nationalism, and the goal of getting an alliance of all the nationalists, Finna Fail, SDLP, Sinn Fein and the Catholic church. Its appeal to

Protestant workers is no greater than the military campaign (i.e. none) and to date republican statements have focused on the need for a De Klerk type figure to lead the Protestants to compromise. It may well be that James Molyneux, leader of the O.U.P. will come to represent such a figure if the initial days of the cease-fire are anything to go by. This approach should come as no surprise to us, it is the underlying bedrock of nationalism. It is the reason we are anti-imperialists rather than socialist republicans. The cease-fire will make this argument easier to put to activists in the north who to date have put their trust in republicanism, both because of its left veneer and the need to support 'the boys'. Depending on developments it may also become easier over the next couple of years to begin a more sustained approach to Protestant workers. To date this has been almost impossible due to the fact that loyalist death squads have targeted, attacked and even killed revolutionary socialists and anarchists who attempted to work in their community while maintaining a principled opposition to imperialism. In this sense the ending of the armed struggle, seen as sectarian by one side and which demobilised the other opens up real possibilities for revolutionary politics. At the same time however the left in general and the anarchist movement in particular, is too weak to make significant gains in the immediate future. If the peace holds, the next few years will be a test of our ability to build a viable alternative to the bosses, north and south. But we are aware that 25 years ago the British state smashed something much more modest than what we propose with armed force. We are also aware that sectarianism was used as the weapon to smash any major manifestation of workers unity in the north, not to mention revolutionary politics. If we are successful in building a revolutionary alternative, then somewhere down the road the state will attempt to unleash the same forces on us. Such an attack can only be defeated by mass mobilisations of tens of thousands and not by the actions of a small armed elite. The ending of the armed struggle cannot simply become part of history. The issue of partition can not be quietly dropped in the interests of winning over Protestant workers. In the short term it would be possible to build workers unity on day to day economic issues without mentioning partition but it would be building on sand. In the past we have seen how instances, some involving very large numbers, of working class unity have been swept away on a tide of bigotry. What is needed is a

revolutionary movement, with consistent anti-imperialist policies, that is composed of workers from both Protestant and Catholic backgrounds. This will be the real test for the left of the cease-fire. It is where the cease-fire assumes its international dimension. All over the world the authoritarian left has collapsed due to the inadequacies of its politics. Building revolutionary movement(s) in Ireland now represents the same challenge faced by anarchists everywhere. Our success or failure depends on our ability to convince people of our politics, demonstrate the ability to fight and win, and give people the confidence to change society. This is the process that can lead to a lasting peace with justice.

For more information contact:

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Twyford Down and the State

TWYFORD DOWN IS a beautiful area of high ground lying SE of Winchester in Hampshire.

It is rich in historical features such as the site of an Iron Age village, pre-Roman field systems, and ancient trackways known as the Dongas, which a group of protesters have named themselves after. They have been camped on the site to defend it since at least last summer and constant actions have been going on with locals, Friends of the Earth supporters (who soon dropped out) and above all Earth Firsters who have been consistently in action against the proposed M3 eight-lane motorway beside the already existing four-lane bypass near Winchester College. Their tactics include sabotage against the main construction company slowing down work and a national Day of Action last November in which they stopped some destruction of landscape. Then on 9 December Winchester College got an eviction order from their land which they had sold to the Department of Transport. Group 4 Security guards were hired and physically fought with the protesters and brought in bulldozers. There was considerable violence on this day, including some alleged sexual assaults on women protesters. Now the earthmovers have moved in as of 23 February to start the destruction of the Down. The fight to save the Down lasted a week, with the protesters finally being evicted with great brutality. In one opinion poll only five per cent of Winchester's population wanted the Twyford Down cutting. 'Green celebrities' like Porritt and Bellamy as well as the Friends of the Earth lent their support to the campaign and direct action to save the Down was even mooted by the thoroughly respectable Residents' Association and Twyford Down Association. But this was all rhetoric and was, unsurprisingly, never put into practice when the DOT with the hired security men ruthlessly evicted the Dongas protesters.

Class Struggle

To many, Twyford Down may seem like another Not in My Backyard (NIMBY) of little relevance to class struggle activists. But the Twyford Down affair, like the planned destruction of Oxleas Wood for similar reasons, is part of an international attack on the countryside and the environment for the needs of capitalism. The British State will tolerate no opposition to its plans, and will use State violence if it feels it to be necessary. The government has the powerful

backing of the road lobby, and has need of a road infrastructure geared to compete with the high-speed rail link to the Channel Tunnel. Besides Twyford Down, there are over 15 new road schemes in preparation or under construction. Government expenditure on road schemes has gone up phenomenally since 1979. A vast number of historic and environmental sites are under threat. And this is just in Britain. The road scheme here is part of an international plan to provide Europe with a modernised road system geared to the free trade principles of the Single Market. France plans to double its road system by the year 2000, including driving a road through the Massif Central mountains. The European Commission plans a 50% growth of the road infrastructure. This is not all. 'The European Community is providing funds for several environmentally damaging hydro-electric projects. 'These include the diversion of' the Aehelos River in Greece, which will threaten many species of bird and ruin the livelihood of hundreds of fishing families; the funding of 250 dams in Spain, which will destroy more than 100 ecological sites; the funding of a large bridge over the Tagus in Portugal, where the most environmentally damaging of three routes was chosen. The fight against the Twyford Down cutting has relevance to the fight back against roads in the rest of Britain nation-wide fight back against roads would include mobilisations against the Oxleas Wood development and the M11 link road through Hackney Marshes. It would need to link up with the developing opposition to road schemes and other forms of ecological damage throughout Europe. The fight at Twyford Down was bogged down in legalistic appeals to the European Court, and a letter-writing campaign to the Government and the Queen! The Dongas Tribe, to their credit did attempt to use direct action to stop the development. What was lacking however, was a mass mobilisation, so that the cutting could be physically stopped due to weight of numbers. There is an urgent need to link up the fight against road schemes to the fight of rail workers and bus workers. The car economy promoted by capitalism has to be directly related to the attacks on public transport, and the vision of a new society which would be geared to environmental harmony and the expansion of a free public transport system. The fight in the countryside has to go in tandem with inner-city actions against road schemes, such as Carmageddon mass blockages of roads that are beginning to develop.

Organise! No. 30 Apr-Jun 1993

Militant and Gay Liberation

Militant have recently relaunched themselves as "Militant Labour", this time openly admitting their existence, rather than pretending to just be a newspaper with "supporters". They claim they're really going to represent the interests of the working class. here we are printing the second part in our short series written by an ex-member of Militant. It should serve as a timely warning to any who are taking Militant's new guise seriously. At the end of 1986 around 20-30 members of Militant who were gay held a secret meeting. The aim of this meeting was to discuss setting up a separate caucus and a gay organisation in Militant and the labour movement. Just around two years before this an attempt had been made at setting up this organisation, but documents relating to this matter had fallen into the hands of full time NCO's, hence the need for ultra secrecy this time. Learning from this, only comrades who were 100% trusted were told and invited. They were to discuss historical and political reasons why gays are oppressed. The meeting was a success and two representatives were sent off to Lynn Walsh to demand an official caucus for lesbians and gays. At first this was rebuffed and the people who had organised the meeting were accused of ultra leftism and acting in a separatist manner. When threats of INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION and resignations followed if demands were not met, Militant changed its tune. A year later, at the height of the campaign against Section 28 pressure began to mount for major articles to appear in Militant. Back page space was found for coverage of the demonstration against Clause 28 and Gay Pride that year. The leadership of Militant did not like the self organisation of its gay and lesbian members. The level of discussion and organisation was a threat to the full time apparatus. They had become too loud and too independent. This went against the grain of the members of Militant being tame and subservient to the organisation. At a crunch caucus, Lynn Walsh opposed the demands for gays and lesbians having the "democratic right" to choose their own sexuality and counterposed it to "toleration lesbians and gaymen", thus exposing his and Militant's prejudices. To screams boos, hisses and howls of total uproar, Walsh replied, "I meant the 17th Century definition of the meaning of toleration." To many this was the last straw. Over 20 people left Militant for good. Many left over the rest of the year. Then

some 4 years later a pamphlet was printed accommodating gay men and lesbians, fitting them in with the sphere of nationalisation of the top 200 industries, etc The demand for repeal of Section 23 was then dropped. Militant had shown their contempt for gays and lesbians and indeed for the whole working class. Wherever it is active Militant opposes independent activity and organisation by workers - anything that it cannot control itself. If Militant leads the fight then any members of the working class who follow them will be led right up the garden path. Events in Liverpool and the anti-poll tax campaign should be warning enough. You have been warned.

Interview with Buenaventura Durruti, by Pierre Van Paasen from the Toronto Daily Star, Madrid, 1936:

"For us it is a question of crushing fascism once and for all. Yes, in spite of government.

No government in the world fights fascism to the death. When the bourgeoisie sees power slipping from its grasp it has recourse to fascism to maintain itself. The liberal government in Spain could have rendered the fascist elements powerless long ago. Instead it temporised and compromised and dallied. Even now at this moment, there are men in this government who want to go easy with the rebels. You can never tell, you know - the present government might yet need these rebellious forces to crush the workers' movement...

We know what we want. To us it means nothing that there is a Soviet Union somewhere in the world, for the sake of whose tranquillity the workers of Germany and Spain were sacrificed to fascist barbarism by Stalin. We want the revolution here in Spain, right now, not maybe after the next European war. We are giving Hitler and Mussolini far more worry today with our revolution than the whole Red Army of Russia. We are setting an example to the German and Italian working class how to deal with fascism.

I do not expect any help for a libertarian revolution from any government in the world. Maybe the conflicting interests in the various imperialisms might have some influence on our struggle. That is quite possible. Franco is doing his best to drag Europe into the conflict. He will not hesitate to pitch Germany in against us. But we expect no help, not even from our government in the last analysis.

[Pierre Van Paasen interjects: 'You will be sitting on a pile of ruins if you are victorious.']

We have always lived in slums and holes in the wall. We will know how to accomodate ourselves for a time. For you must not forget, we can also build. It is we who built those palaces and cities here in Spain and America and everywhere. We, the workers, can build others to take their place. And better ones. We are not in the least afraid of ruins. We are going to inherit the earth. There is not the slightest doubt about that. The bourgeoisie might blast and ruin its own world before it leaves the stage of history. We carry a new world, here in our hearts. That world is growing this minute."

GET ORGANISED

This is a list of anarchist and anti-authoritarian groups organised in Britain.

Anarchist Black Cross c/o 121 Railton Rd London SE24.

Anarchist Communist Federation 84b Whitechapel High St London E1 7QX.

Class War PO Box 1201 Edinburgh, EH8 9PW. or PO Box 772 Bristol BS99 1EL.

Leeds Anarchist Group c/o 145-149 Cardigan Rd Leeds LS6.

London Greenpeace 5 Caledonian Rd London N1.

Scottish Federation of Anarchists Box 1008 Glasgow G42 8AA.

Sheffield Anarchist Group PO Box 446 Sheffield S1 1NY.

Solidarity federation PO Box 384 Preston Lancs RR1 5PQ.

Subversion Dept 101 Newton St Manchester M1 1HW.

